

Welcome

Hello! I'm Charlotte the new Admin Support Officer for the Circuit. I live just outside Boroughbridge and I'm Mum to a wonderful little girl called Felicity. I spend a lot of time outside with my horse, Xena and our dog, Honey and when at home, I like reading, and listening to podcasts. Being a Mum is my favourite thing though, and I can happily spend all day reading, playing, baking, colouring and attempting to garden with my daughter. We want to try and grow some (very) beginner-friendly veg this year so keeping my fingers crossed we succeed!

Thank you for welcoming me so kindly the past few weeks, I look forward to supporting the Circuit and getting to meet more of you in the coming months.



NOTE FROM EDITOR – It is wonderful Charlotte to welcome you to our Circuit and I know you will be a great addition to the Team. Our Churches are waiting with eagerness to meet you and share your ideas I am sure you will be a wonderful asset to them.

Note From the Editor

If you don't see anything in this issue of the Newsletter from your Church it probably means your Church doesn't have a "Roving Reporter", so if this is something you would be interested in, I would love to hear from you, my contact details can be found on the back page. The deadline for April's Edition is 24 March 2023. Thank You – **Amanda Milner (Editor)**

Reflecting during Lent, by Revd. Gareth Baron

Where are you this lent? In the Gospel according to Luke we read how 'Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness.' It's interesting to see the various initiatives to engage people in differing ways during Lent. I noted this year charitable fundraising Lent walking challenges, Fasting for various reasons, Lent study groups and many other extra Lent activities. All these offer opportunities for increased engagement in one form or another to help connect us with God at best and at least help keep us focused on Lent. When we look at what is recorded in the Gospel according to Luke, it clearly tells us that the time Jesus spent in the wilderness was Spirit led. Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit was led by the Spirit in the wilderness. If we want to ask the age old question of 'what would Jesus do?' the answer here is to be open to receive the Holy Spirit and to be led by the Spirit. Interestingly during Lent when Christians observe the forty days that Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, we can sometimes overlook how Jesus was led by the Spirit. So, spiritually, where are you this lent?

What does your wilderness look and feel like? Wilderness can raise pictures in the mind of desert lands with tumble weeds blowing around. Wilderness places can look and feel somewhat different for everyone. For some their wilderness looks like their home and feels like loneliness, isolation or perhaps feels like despair due to unrelenting cost of living crises. For others wilderness looks and feels like being forgotten by family, friends, and society, living with homelessness. Long-term illness can sometimes be an influencing factor that throws people into a wilderness. There

are many wilderness places today and people are living in such wilderness places beyond forty days. We can have empathy for each other when recognising wilderness beyond a desert land. For some observing Lent means entering into a self-generated wilderness type of place by choosing to give up 'chocolate' or another creature comfort. By denying something we ordinarily enjoy can help to create space for increased prayer time, or time to give in volunteering, or even if money is being spent on treats it might be given to a charity. Ultimately, with regards to all of the above, we each can speak from our own perspectives, but what difference is God making in the wilderness?

How are you led by the Spirit? We read in Galatians the fruit of the Spirit is described in nine attributes. 'The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.' These nine characteristics or marks of the fruit of the Spirit should be evident if we are to be led by the Spirit. Chapter five of Galatians concludes with, 'if we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.' These traits stand in stark contrast to the fruit of the Spirit and perhaps we are more vulnerable to become conceited, competing or envious when we are not being guided by the Spirit. Yet if we live by the Spirit, to also be guided by the Spirit makes sense. In Romans, chapter eight we read. 'For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.' In my opinion, being led by the Spirit is without doubt essential, yet can we claim to be Spirit led whilst the attributes of the fruit of the Spirit are absent. When we live by the Spirit we will see the fruit of the Spirit but let us not forget the grace of God. For we do not come to God as perfect people, rather we come in need of help, we come in need of forgiveness, we come in need of liberation. Being led by the Spirit, seeking God to guide us and

to grow the fruit of the Spirit in us is all part of being children of God. I would suggest that seeking to be led by the Spirit includes being open to living out the attributes of the fruit of the Spirit.

Storm OTTO, how do we experience God Holy Spirit?

Recently we have battened down the hatches with storm OTTO and whenever I go outdoors in such extreme weather conditions, experiencing the noise and power of the wind causes me to think afresh of how we experience God Holy Spirit. The wind in a storm feels wild, it feels uncontrollable and blows wherever it will. Is this not how God Holy Spirit moves our lives and lives within us? I would suggest that to live by and to be led by Spirit is being receptive to the Spirit moving wherever and however it moves. I am not suggesting that God Holy Spirit is only experienced like a storm, but that like a storm we do not control it, but we experience God Holy Spirit, who is God and not tamed by any human intent.

Never too late to Lent. For some Lent began on Ash Wednesday having had their fill of pancakes the day before. For others the Lenten season is something they are carried into like when a sea current moves someone in the sea unawares. I'd like to suggest it's never too late to Lent well with God. You might be considering what this means for you? I would encourage everyone to begin each day during Lent just as Jesus began, by being led by the Spirit. In our part, we need to be open to God, we need to make space and give our time to God, we need to be receptive and willing to follow how God Holy Spirit leads us. As we give ourselves to God this Lent, may God give us depth, and shape, and movement to us in our Lenten days. **Amen.**



Taking time out to experience God

Perhaps it's just me, but haven't these last few months been extra busy for all of us? It seems in the words of the white rabbit in one of the Alice books that it takes all the running we do to stay in the same place. There is much talk today about well-being. I dare to suggest that spiritual well-being is as important as physical and mental well-being. We spend so much time and energy keeping the church going we have little time to discern what God might be saying. We have to correct this urgently. On a busy day for me full of meetings and demands I felt led to drive up to the visitor centre at Sutton Bank and just have an hour walking along the bank, stopping to take in what some think is the best view in England, and then having some lunch. I felt better getting away even for a short time. Spiritual head space is necessary for our work life balance and taking time out even for a few minutes can heal our angst there is so much to do.

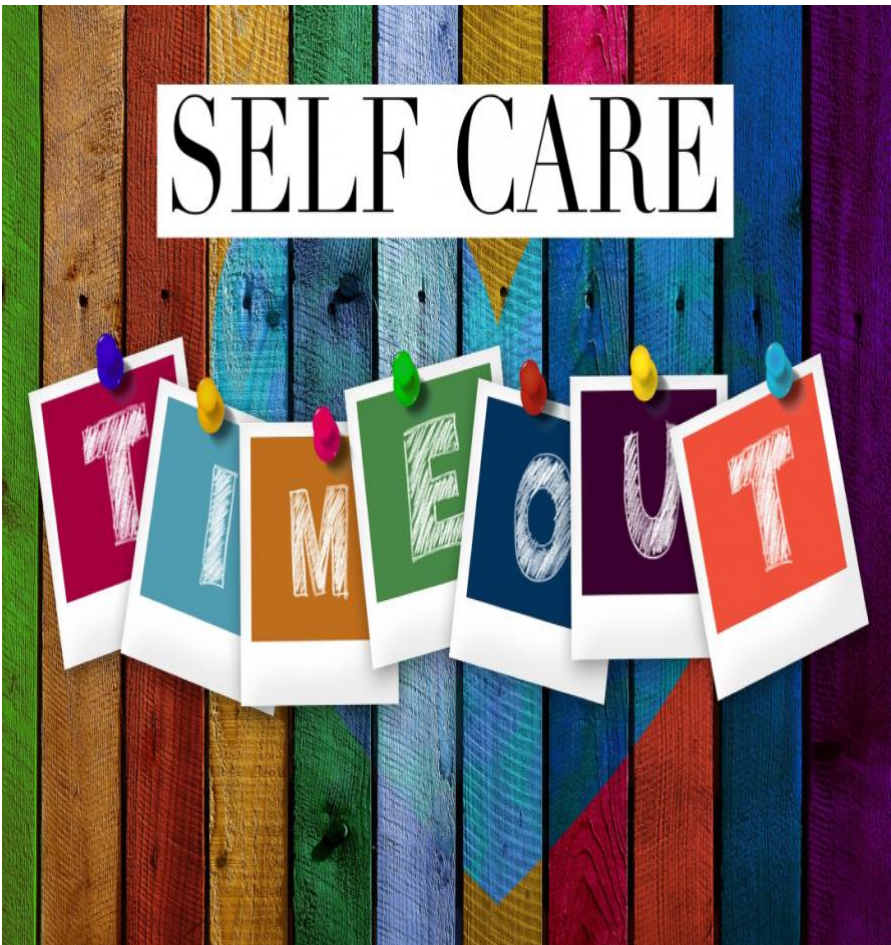
I'm offering three time outs in the next few weeks. Why not put them in your diary now? You are not too busy to come to them and you might leave them feeling better!

Wednesday 15 March at 7pm at Grewelthorpe Village Hall, another chance to hear my talk on Sacred Space. Come on a journey round the North East mostly of places that can soothe your soul...

Saturday 25 March at 10am until 3pm at St James and the Methodist Church Grewelthorpe, a quiet day for Lent. Bring some lunch and a Bible and something to write with and on. We will be thinking about how we move on when things go wrong and what faith can teach us about new beginnings.

Wednesday 5 April at 7pm at Boroughbridge Methodist Church - a Holy Week reflection using Tenebrae. A time we can sit and reflect on the story of Jesus' last week and a journey from light to darkness as he is slowly abandoned by his friends. Tenebrae

is a deeply moving experience. Come and try it.
I'm writing this over a cup of coffee at the auction mart building outside Thirsk. An elderly farmer has just joined me on the table. He comes in here every day at 12pm for his dinner. He also enjoys meeting people every day. He then goes back to his livestock. The time out is part of his day. It is my conviction if we gave God time then we'd have less church worry. What do you think? – **Revd. Ian**



Journey of Faith...

The Bedale Methodist Church I grew up in was a fantastic place to be inspired and nurtured in the Christian faith, it always made a big deal about the season of Lent and still does. I have come to really appreciate the opportunity Lent offers to anyone who wishes to develop personally and spiritually.

By the time this Newsletter comes out, those who are observing Lent may have already decided what to give up or taken something new on or even recommitted to prayer. If we have given something up, do we now feel that we have beaten our reliance on it? Or is it getting harder and harder? If we have taken on something new, does it feel like it is benefiting our lives or those around us? Or is it proving to be a real struggle? If we have recommitted to prayer or other spiritual disciplines, are we feeling encouraged in our efforts? Or are we coming up against obstacles and discouragement? Some of us might beat ourselves up when we 'fail' at these sorts of resolutions. We can feel guilty and bogged down if we don't live up to our Lent commitments. And the danger is that these feelings can overwhelm us and lead us to say "well, I'm already failing so I might as well give up completely".

In these sorts of moments, I would remind us all (myself included!) that this is not a journey we undertake alone. As well as our fellow travellers in the church, in our community and perhaps in our homes, it is important that we do not lose sight of the person for whom and with whom we ultimately travel: it is Jesus who led the way with his own time of prayer and fasting in the desert; it is Jesus who dwells with us and accompanies us on our own spiritual journeys; it is Jesus who knows our darkest thoughts and failings as well as our best self and our successes; it is Jesus who reaches out in

forgiveness and compassion when our Lent isn't going quite as we might have hoped, always encouraging us with second chance after second chance, and with the encouragement to keep going.

My prayer for those of us who are participating in Lent (and those for whom Lent is not a meaningful part of our spiritual life), is that we would know that encouragement day by day over the weeks to come.

And as Lent draws to a close towards the beginning of April, and we enter into Holy Week, the intensity of the Passion and the celebration of Jesus' resurrection there will be opportunities to come together to worship, with your own Maundy Thursday service, a joint walk of witness with the other churches on Good Friday and your Easter Sunday Holy Communion...

And, of course, the journey of faith doesn't end there...

Blessings Amanda Milner



JOURNEY
— OF —
FAITH

Kathy's Corner

“How’s Kathy’s Corner?” a friend asked recently. I’ve been avoiding our garden of late. It’s too cold to sit by the pond, the plants and fish are still in their winter sleep, so nothing to see. But spring bulbs are peeping now, and it appears I need to garden. Dead plants to clear, a bit of weeding, and sort the Canadian pondweed. When the pond water froze, so did the weed, and it’s not looking too healthy at the moment. It’s been dislodged from its usual spot and is floating around, getting blown by the wind, and broken up in the process. There are lots of strands of weed that need fishing out, clumping together and repotting. There doesn’t seem so much greenery in the strands though, so how quick it will recover remains to be seen. We may need to buy some more – which annoys my husband considering how much of the wretched stuff we’ve pulled out and discarded over the years! The main problem, however, is how the frogs and toads will get on with limited places to spawn in, and the poor tadpoles won’t find many hiding places. The fish will be ecstatic though.

Going further up our garden, I noticed green shoots in the wildflower garden area. Thought that was promising, until Malcolm pointed out they were Buddleia seedlings blown in from next door – so I would need to pull them out. Oh, the joy of having an arthritic husband! I wandered off to admire the snowdrops under the apple tree instead, only to find pieces of bark amongst them. “That branch is definitely dying back”, Malcolm said, pointing above my head. Son-in-law needed to cut that off, in the hope we can save the rest of the tree. Nature doesn’t seem to be doing too well in Kathy’s corner, but I know it will recover. Nature can be cruel at times, but when we humans interfere with the natural order there can be devastating effects. We have seen that in floods and fires caused by climate change, and more recently in the terrible

earthquake, where a lack of investment in safety standards meant huge loss of life as buildings weren't safe.

My latest sermon, for Lent, is titled "Are you on the right course?" meaning the right path that leads the way to God. If all nations could be on the same course of caring for their citizens, and their neighbours, as we have seen with the aid entering Turkey and Syria, the natural order of things would be as God created and a better kingdom would be on offer to all. As we embark on our Easter journey this year, let's pray that more will come to learn that truth. - **Blessings from Kathy Lowrie**



Vic's Monthly Musings

Autumn is well past, but I still seem to need to sweep up the leaves, as I try to keep the garden tidy during the winter months. While trying to clear up the leaves the other day I found myself constantly battling with the wind, as it took hold of the leaves and whirled them round into a mini tornado. I never seemed to be able to complete the job. Wherever I looked there was always more to be swept up. Sweeping up leaves could never be a 100% job.

On another occasion recently, I was driving down the A1, when I noticed something in the road. Slowing down and trying to avoid it, I realised that it was just a large white plastic bag. I had driven over it, so as I glanced in my rear-view mirror, I caught sight of it whirling about in the road dancing in my slipstream, ready to distract the next motorist.

As I pondered (mused) these two incidents; the leaves and the plastic bag, I realised that it was the force of the wind that had sent them completely out of control. How often do we feel like that? How often do we feel that the path of our lives is being shaped by forces out of our control?

I have been feeling a bit like that recently, since my wife, Jenni, fell, broke her hip and ended up in hospital. For the last few weeks, I have had to rely on other people (Doctors, nurses and physiotherapists.) Never really knowing what is going to happen next. I have not been able to sort things out for myself. Other people have been able to control Jenni's and my life. BUT. and there is always a but, (as Rev Susan Richardson always used to say), I thank God that there are others who can take control. In our case, members of the National Health Service (the professionals). Also, friends and family who stepped in to ease the burden and to say those very special words. "**We are thinking and praying for you**". Thank you to all those in our church family who have supported Jenni and myself recently, in so many ways.

Lent

Have you seen someone commit to an act just to prove a point to someone who tries to belittle them? Have you read about someone risking their life committing a dare devil act to show their superiority? Have you heard of anyone turning their back on family and all who respect them for vast material gain? Common newspaper stories you can read often. Yet, these three challenges from the worst enemy in the world, were faced by Jesus. The perfect number of challenges to destroy centuries of prophecy. Challenges that would destroy Jesus' credibility, God's plan for the forgiveness of the human race, and perhaps close the gates of heaven. The Resurrection as we know it, would not have happened!

There is a battle in a dimension we are not privileged to see, thank God! Jesus told us he had seen the devil fall from heaven. We were told where he fell? The world we see runs on money in different forms, even funerals aren't free. You can't worship both God and money. The rich nations help the poor nations helping themselves in return. False news is everywhere. Governments tell you what they want you to know and see. When the wrong narrative is discussed, the Internet is cut, social media is closed. BBC India has problems but is still allowed to broadcast from Russia? Everyone spies on each other and holds the nuclear big stick, up their back, fronted by a smiling face. Sanctions are the sticking plaster, avoiding a face to face with a bully, who has nothing to lose and nowhere to go.

Lent is a preparation. A testing preparation for Jesus before ministry and essential for us in the world we live in, as we rub shoulders with the tempter. The origin of Lent goes back in time and the number of days corresponds to major stories of life of the chosen people. Moses on the mountain in Exodus

and Elijah travelling to mount Horeb. The wilderness could be on a mountain top as the Greek speaks of a desolate place though we may perceive it as desert. Forty days, nights and years is common in scripture as a testing time before something important.

“It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” Three statements of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, at the end of his 40 days of fasting. I have to ask myself, when do I break a commandment and expect God’s forgiveness? When do I desire something outrageous that I don’t really need? When do I not offer bread to a child? I need to examine myself, my thoughts and my actions. What I must do is all covered in the first two commandments not 40/365 but 24/7, surplus shared. - **Deacon David**



Collective Worship, God is in our Schools

There are many great joys, privileges, and encouragements within my ministry. One such occasion is being able to share with children and teachers in leading collective worship across the local primary schools. I currently visit six schools on a regular basis. Finding the time can be a challenge and I have often burnt the candle a little longer into the evening to prepare. The collective worship school congregations' range in number from thirty plus to over one hundred and fifty time two. Each school have their own distinct characteristics, but all engage with such enthusiasm as we explore the Bible, sing worship and dance, and join in prayer. The themes vary throughout the year with each topic being firmly rooted in Our Lord God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I have become accustomed to hearing a little voice calling 'hello, Revd. Gareth' whilst out and about or having a child point at me whilst telling their grown up who I am. With all the schools being Church of England primary schools, the ministry I share is ecumenical. I find it intriguing what we might learn from the children, they are less interested in the denomination of their collective worship leaders and more rightly focused on worship.

Yes, it needs to be engaging, yes it needs to fit within a schools setting and take into consideration the school ethos and values, but this is weekly acts of worship to God.

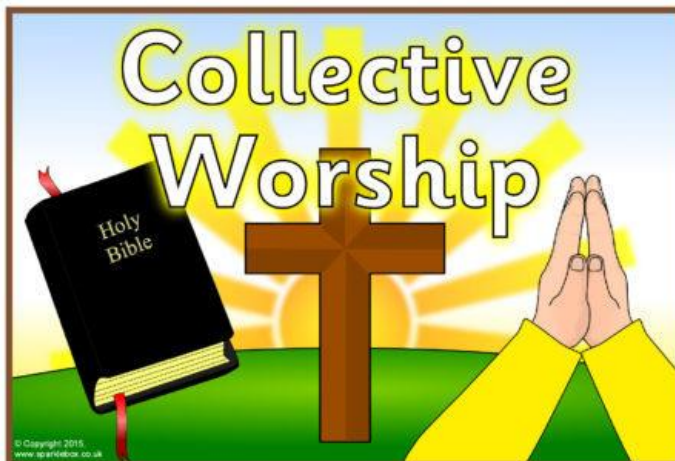
I think it is safe to say for most of the children, their main experience of church is either through school visits for services or lessons about Christianity. So, for there to be opportunities for children to gather in God's presence in their school week is in my view a vitality important provision.

We can all be a support for our local schools by including them in our daily prayers. Teachers and other school staff give so



much care and work hard to ensure the children receive the best experience, opportunities, and education possible through their school days. My hope is to give a little something in way of a positive and helpful contribution to the diligent work of the schools. My prayer is that all in the school would know God is ever present seeking to nurture all to flourish in their God given potential.

If you have a little extra time, I always welcome prayers for me too and greatly appreciate those who do support me through their prayer life, thanks, - **Revd. Gareth**



**A WELCOME SERVICE FOR
OUR NEW PROBATIONER MINISTER**

Revd. Sarah Caddell

Saturday 18th March 2023 at 6.00 pm

**At Harrogate Road,
Methodist Church, Ripon**

**Led by Revd. Gareth Baron
Superintendent Minister of The Ripon &
Lower Dales Methodist Circuit**

**Tea, coffee and light refreshments will
be served afterwards
(Bring & Share)**





Circuit stewards

Wondering if you're called to be...a steward?

A steward plays a vital role in the team that leads local churches and the circuit. This is a voluntary role, and you are elected annually to serve for up to six years.

Good stewards are:

- praying people
- visionary
- practical
- caring, supportive and mindful of others' needs.

In the book of Ruth, Ruth says to her mother-in-law Naomi: "Your people shall be my people, and your God my God." Ruth 1:16 (NRSV)

Ruth had a sense of calling that seemed to be both a duty and a delight.

Are you being prompted, or do you know someone who has the above qualities to become a Circuit Steward?

- Do I have or no someone who has the skills and gifts to be a Circuit Steward?
- Is God asking you to take a role in the leadership of your Circuit?

If the answer is yes to the two questions above, please **speak to our Superintendent Minister, Revd. Gareth Baron or one of the current Circuit Stewards** for more information.

News from our “Roving Reporters” from around the Circuit

West Tanfield - would like to pay tribute to Anne.

Anne fulfilled many roles within the Church over the years, including Church Council Secretary, Sunday School Teacher, Youth Club leader, mainstay of Homemakers, founder member of our very successful Lunch Club, and organiser of our regular fundraising events in the Village Hall.

When failing eyesight and serious health issues blighted Anne's final years, she remained a vital member of our Church, always ready with an encouraging word and made sure that no one slipped through the net when they needed any help, although as her daughter Andrea remarked at Anne's funeral, it was never an easy job to help Anne in return. Her courage and determination to just keep going is an example to us all.

Anne was extremely well known in the village of Tanfield because she cared about people, the children in the school, members of the Flower Club, and villagers in general.

We at Tanfield still expect Anne to walk into a service or a meeting. Her Christian love towards everyone she met will live long in the memory.

NOTE FROM EDITOR – What a lovely fitting tribute to a wonderful lady. Please be assured of the Circuits Prayers for Anne’s family and you all at West Tanfield Chapel at this time.

A THANK YOU FROM WEST TANFIELD

Tanfield have received confirmation that all works noted on the Improvement Notice issued in March 2022 have been completed to the satisfaction of Hambleton Council. This followed an inspection of the property held on 25th January, attended by the officer who issued the notice, Mrs. Clair

Weber, our tenant, Mark Morton and myself.

The saga of Chapel House has been a long and sometimes extremely difficult road for the members of Tanfield, with misunderstandings and upsets along the way. There was the added stress of the possibility of us having to fund the work ourselves, plus Court action if we failed to complete on time without reasonable cause.

Initially Ian was our ever present support, always willing to give Tanfield his time despite also fulfilling the role of Circuit Superintendent in Gareth's absence.

Gareth took over on his return from sabbatical and set the wheels in motion to enable us to arrive at our current situation. As always, he was the quiet voice of reason and a listening non judgemental ear when stress sometimes influenced my words and actions in a negative way.

Diane Ashby has been very supportive throughout and even during her maternity leave has continued to arrange the staged payments to our Contractor, Liam Carr.

I would like to confirm Tanfield's Assessment has always reflected the rent we have received for the property and also that the insurance is paid until December 2023.

A basic statement of account will be included with the Circuit paperwork sent out prior to the meeting to be held in Tanfield at the end of March. This will show both income and expenditure. To date the Circuit have paid out £28,595.44 which was the total amount of invoices received from Liam Carr. All other expenditure has been paid for by West Tanfield and rent received will be set against any reimbursement subsequently received.

I have been the "face" but alongside me has been Simon Abel, our Senior Steward, who has worked just as hard on this project as I have. We have been a team throughout and I could not have managed without his support and practical help. Clare Verity also did a superb job sorting out the removal

storage and return of our tenant's furniture – believe me by no means straightforward.

We send our sincere thanks to everyone who has helped us, not least the membership of the Circuit Meeting for agreeing to Chapel House being taken over by the Circuit. - **Liz Elvy, Church Council Secretary/Treasurer**

Snape - Easter.....we are presently planning Easter celebrations over the Easter Week.

During Holy Week, we will have several displays in chapel, depicting different parts of the Easter story. Please feel free to pop in.

On Easter Sunday we invite you to join us in a Celebration Service at 6.30pm.

This service will include, songs, readings and drama led by our community choir singers and Rev David Emison.

On the first Sunday of each month, at 6.30pm, we hold 'Sing to the King '

At this we sing a selection of new and old songs, often on a theme. It is lovely singing a wide selection of songs and all their lovely words of worship. These are lovely times.

Recently we even had an evening of Sankey. This was a really good evening.

It is lovely having friends from across the circuit join us on these evenings. Please feel free to come along to this small, relaxed and blessed time. At the next couple of gatherings, it will partly include learning some songs for Easter Sunday.

Carthorpe - Not a lot to report this month, we are all looking forward to spring and longer days.

It is lovely to see the snowdrops and aconites, they make us feel so much brighter.

We have had good services this month, it was difficult not meeting with each other over Christmas and New year but back to normal now.

We were pleased to have Rev James Glyn Thomas to share with Gareth in the Covenant Service and welcome friends from Church who joined with us.

Richard Clark took our own arrangement service, which was a Songs of Praise, which everyone appreciated very much.

Linda Blackburn stirred us to thinking again of the words of one of my favourite hymns Jesu Jesu fill us with your love, how much we need to think of our neighbours, so many needing support in so many places.

David Emison took our Tuesday Get together meeting and gave us one his wonderful insights into the first experiences of his life in the ministry. We were pleased to welcome friends from Tanfield and Bedale, do feel free to join us on the first Tuesday of each month at 2pm.

It is good to see Chris looking a lot better after his fall and nasty cold and to know that John Foster has now got the pot off his ankle and is hoping to start physio. His words where I will never go up a ladder again.

Grewelthorpe

Our monthly G Club continues, with a consistently good turnout. This remains a popular monthly event, with children of primary age exploring biblical themes through fun activities. Next G-Club Wednesday 15th March 6-7pm. 6-7pm. The period of Lent will soon be upon us. Here in Grewelthorpe for many years we have served Lent Lunches held in Grewelthorpe church 12.00 – 1.30 . They Start on 27th February, each Monday for 6 weeks. The last one will be April 3rd. Please join us for a simple lunch including a choice of delicious soup, bread roll, cheese and biscuits, tea or coffee. Donations gratefully received. This year they are to be divided equally between the DEC Turkey- Syria Earthquake Appeal and Church funds.

We have been delighted by the generous donation of chairs from Kirkby Malzeard Methodist chapel, although sad that they

are no longer needed in that setting. we feel very fortunate. Also, on Mothering Sunday we will be especially welcoming members from Kirkby Malzeard to join our congregation. After a little delay we hope that Revd Ian Pruden can provide us with an insight into his sabbatical last year. The talk is called Sacred Space and will be held on March 15th in Grewelthorpe Village Hall at 7.30pm. We hope that if you have not already heard it that you can join us. There is also planned a Quiet Day planned for March 25th to be held in Church.

Lastly, fundraising is still continuing for renovations in our church, including vital work on the roof. The active fundraising committee have planned various events including an Auction of Promises to be held in the Village Hall, Saturday, 18th March, 7pm. Please contact Susan Rizos susan.rizos@btinternet.com for details including Auction promises. There are more events planned to include a Spring Fair in the Village Hall, 1st April. 10-2

Bedale & District – We are going to meet Ecumenically for Lent Study Groups this year when we will be looking at the York Course written by David Wilbourne, entitled ‘You Can’t Be Serious!’ Meeting Jesus afresh in John’s Gospel. You are invited to move between venues at your convenience. These start week commencing 27 February 2023 and will be held on: Mondays at 7.30pm – Bedale and District Methodist Church, Tuesdays at 2pm – Chantry Hall and Wednesdays at 4pm at the home of Chris and Christine Carruthers, School House, Thornton Watlass, HG4 4AH.

Holy Week Services - will begin at 7.00 p.m. at the following venues, Monday Mission Church Burrill, Tuesday St John the Baptist Church Leeming, Wednesday Bedale & District Methodist Church.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service will be held at Bedale & District Methodist Church at 7pm

Good Friday Walk of Witness: (Friday 7th April) Start at 10.30 am at the Band Stand in Bedale Park, first stop Barclays Bank, then outside Institution Café, cross the road and make a third stop near the bus shelter, finishing outside Chantry Hall. We will finish with refreshments in the Chantry Hall.

We are also looking forward to sharing worship at West Tanfield Methodist Church on Good Friday at 7pm when the service will be led by the Revd. Gareth and a Circuit Service will be held at Masham Methodist Chapel on Easter Sunday at 6.30 pm to which everyone is welcome.



Prayer Page

Lord God,
we sometimes turn up here,
so tired after a busy week.
Our minds, bodies and souls aching for refreshment.
Jesus came to the well tired from his journey.
He sought not only to receive refreshment
but to give spiritual succour.
Lord God, we too want to receive. And to give.
We offer ourselves to you so you can do
your mighty work in us.
Amen.

The woman recognises Jesus for who he really is.
The Samaritans hear that Jesus is the saviour of the world.
They can't help but believe.
May we see today that you know us, Lord,
through and through.
May we hear that you are our Saviour,
be astonished by your amazing love and acceptance,
realising that you have always known us.
Praise you, mighty redeemer.
Amen.

The woman at the well knew Jesus knew her, warts and all.
We come before you now, Jesus,
and sit at the well expectantly,
hearts open, ready to acknowledge our wrongdoing.
Lord, please forgive us for the times we have failed you –
unintentionally, or sometimes deliberately,
for thinking we can fool you
about the less public parts of our lives,
about the state of our heart.
Help us to humbly acknowledge that:

you know everything we have ever done;
you know when we exclude people;
you know when we don't recognise you.
Fill our hearts with your forgiveness, Lord,
and make us ready to move forward with you.

Amen.

Sometimes we think we know our place.
Exactly just so.
And everybody else should know theirs.
Exactly just so.
As we go into a new week,
help us to realise that life isn't actually
'exactly just so'.
It can be expanded beyond our wildest dreams.
Lord, this week we want to be astonished,
to accept everyone in your love.
We want people to believe because of our testimony.
For people to hear it for themselves, through our lives.
Thank you for giving us our best life in you.

Amen.

We pray for places around the world where there is no fresh
water;
for places that suffer constant drought,
or where people have to walk miles to the nearest well.
**Water of life, quench us with your life-giving Spirit
and bring hope.**

We pray for those on the margins of society
because of their status, age, disability, background or race;
those who seem to have no voice.
Help us to hear their cries, to listen to their pleas.
Help us to open our eyes and our ears.
**Water of life, quench us with your life-giving Spirit
and bring hope.**

The Samaritan woman took a risk speaking to Jesus.

We pray for all who take risks on a daily basis –

in their jobs, for mere survival, to get food and water for their families; and for children involved in risky situations all over the world, trying to survive.

Water of life, quench us with your life-giving Spirit and bring hope.

We pray for those in our communities who need your water of life; those who are lonely, bereaved, sad, or have lost all hope.

Bring them your comfort, joy and peace.

Water of life, quench us with your life-giving Spirit and bring hope.

Amen.

Reproduced from ROOTS for Churches Limited



Prayer Commitment by the Circuit Meeting:

- Pray for Aid Agencies in Afghanistan.
- Pray for our current Circuit Stewards and that the Lord will call more to join the team that are visionary, practical, caring, supportive and mindful of our circuits' needs.
- Pray for the year ahead and the Circuits Christian faith life. Especially the aspects of discipleship we can aspire to be engaged in.

Newsletter

If you know someone who would like to receive a postal copy of this newsletter, please let Amanda Milner know on 01677 427909 or 07805 623464, email milnera68@gmail.com. OR the Circuit Office.

Contact details for Circuit Office Team:

Charlotte Mander 01765 698363

Diane Ashby: 07423 504872 (Currently on Maternity Leave)



Superintendent Minister – Rev. Gareth Baron

Telephone: 01677 989169

Email: revgbaron@gmail.com



Minister – Rev. Ian Pruden

Telephone: 01765 698288

Email:

ianpruden@btinternet.com



Local Pastor – Catherine Clowes

Telephone: 07377 614581

Email:

riponcircuitenabler@gmail.com

Please Check out the Circuit and District Websites:

riponlowerdalesmethodists.org.uk

yorkshiremethodist.org